

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 ERDA-05 NSF-01 INT-05

EPA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 AGR-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 /068 W

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R 121324Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9128

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, USEGJC

SUBJECT: MEETING OF JOINT WORKING GROUP FOR TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT

REF: (A) STATE 289047, (B) CAIRO 11561, (C) RICHMOND/WALD
TELCON, JAN. 9, 1976

1. DURING DISCUSSION JANUARY 10 WITH SCIENCE OFFICE CONCERNING
PREPARATIONS FOR SUBJECT MEETING, DR. HASSAN ISMAIL SAID
EGYPTIAN DELEGATION WOULD PROBABLY TOTAL 11, INCLUDING BESIDES
HIMSELF AS CHAIRMAN: DR. AHMED AZZAM (CULTURAL COUNSELOR,
EGYPTIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON); DR. IBRAHIM BADRAN
(VICE-PRESIDENT, CAIRO UNIVERSITY); DR. ABDEL-MEGUED OSMAN
(VICE-PRESIDENT, ASSUIT UNIVERSITY); DR. AHMED EL-ERIAN
(PROF. OF ENGINEERING, CAIRO UNIVERSITY); DR. AHMED BADR
(PROF. OF LIBRARY SCIENCE, CAIRO UNIVERSITY); ENG. HUSSEIN
IDRISS (MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE); DR. MOSTAFA HAFEZ (CONSULTANT,
ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY); DR. KAMAL
EFFAT (UNDER SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
AND ATOMIC ENERGY); A REPRESENTATIVE OF MFA
(PROBABLY DR. SAFWAT BARAKA); AND PROBABLY DR. ADEL
SABET (DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE MINISTER, MINISTRY OF
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND ATOMIC ENERGY).

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2. ISMAIL SAID HE HAS BEEN REVIEWING STATUS OF ACTIVITY

IN FIVE AGREED AREAS. IN PARTICULAR, HE STRONGLY FAVORS JWG CONSIDERING EXPANSION OF STUDIES ON LAKE NASSER/NILE RIVER WATER PROBLEMS TO COVER SEDIMENT HYDRAULICS AND DANGER OF SCOURING. TO INDICATE IMPORTANCE, HE EXPLAINED THAT LAKE STORAGE IS NOW ALMOST AT FULL CAPACITY, SO THAT IF THERE ARE HIGH FLOODWATERS ENTERING LAKE THIS YEAR, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO RELEASE WATER FROM THE DAM AT RATE HIGHER THAN IN PAST TWELVE YEARS, WHICH MIGHT POSE SOME DANGER TO BRIDGES, RETAINING WALLS, AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION ALONG NILE. RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN MADE TO MINISTER OF IRRIGATION THAT HE ORDER IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF LARGER AMOUNTS OF WATER FROM DAM IN ORDER TO REDUCE BUILDUP, AND IF THIS IS DONE, PROBLEM UNLIKELY TO BE ACUTE UNLESS THERE ARE UNUSUALLY HIGH FLOODWATERS THIS YEAR. ISMAIL SAID SOVIETS JUST LAST WEEK SUBMITTED TO GOE STUDY REPORT BEGUN SOME TIME AGO ON HIGH-DAM AFTER-EFFECTS, BUT IN ISMAIL'S VIEW REPORT IS NOT WORTH MUCH, PERHAPS BECAUSE SOVIETS HAVE NOT HAD MUCH EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SORT OF PROBLEM, AND EGYPTIANS NOW LOOKING TO U.S. ACCORDING TO ISMAIL, MFA HAS BEEN SENT LETTER BY MINISTER OF IRRIGATION, PROPOSING THAT HE AND 10 EXPERTS VISIT US SHORTLY TO LOOK AT SIMILAR DAMS, BUT MFA HAS NOT YET REPLIED. EVEN IF THAT VISIT TAKES PLACE, ISMAIL INDICATED THERE WOULD STILL BE GREAT NEED FOR DETAILED STUDY THAT MAY TAKE ABOUT 3 YEARS TO COMPLETE. EGYPTIAN SIDE INTENDS MAKE PRESENTATION ABOUT THIS PROBLEM AT JWG MEETING.

3. RE BUILDING MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY AREA, ISMAIL SAID HE BELIEVES MOST OF PLANNING ON PAPER IS COMPLETED, THAT INITIAL PROJECT ON BUILDING INFORMATION PROGRAM IS READY FOR IMPLEMENTATION, BUT THAT GOE NEEDS TO BE PUSHED A LITTLE, WHICH ISMAIL IS TRYING TO DO. SAID MINISTER OF RECONSTRUCTION HAS AGREED ORALLY TO CONTRIBUTE SOME FUNDS TO JOINT PROJECTS, AND ISMAIL IS PRESSURING TO SECURE FINAL REPLY FROM MINISTER IN TIME FOR JWG MEETING.

4. IN LABORATORY EQUIPMENT REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE AREA, ISMAIL COMMENTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN OPPOSITION BY SOME PROFESSORS AT CAIRO UNIVERSITY TO IDEA OF DEVELOPING BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM AT UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL. HE BELIEVES THIS QUESTION WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE SETTLED SHORTLY. IN ANY EVENT, HE EXPECTS BADRAN AND DEVEY WILL REPORT ON JOINT EFFORTS AT JWG MEETING.

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5. RE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AREA, ISMAIL BELIEVES PLANS MOVING ALONG REASONABLY WELL AS RESULT OF RECENT PRONKO/BADR WORK.

6. RE WATER RESOURCES AREA, HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES NOTHING HAS MOVED. ISMAIL ESPECIALLY CONCERNED BECAUSE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE OF WATER UTILIZATION PROBLEMS HERE. HE FEELS MORE ATTENTION NEEDS TO BE PAID THIS AREA, AND NOTES THAT US SIDE APPARENTLY HAS NOT YET NAMED CHAIRMAN OF WATER RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT GROUP.

7. EGYPTIAN SIDE HAS NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS AS YET ABOUT ANY NEW AREAS.

8. ISMAIL INDICATED HE HAS BEEN ACTIVELY WORKING TO IMPROVE COORDINATION WITHIN GOE ON AREAS OF JWG INTEREST. NOTED THAT ACADEMY WAS INITIALLY WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBLE DUPLICATION OF EFFORT IN INFORMATIO SYSTEMS AREA, BUT IT IS NOW ARRANGED THAT BADR WILL ALSO HAVE ACADEMY APPOINTMENT TO ENSURE COORDINATION. ISMAIL ALSO RECENTLY BROUGHT TOGETHER ACADEMY PRES. ABU-AZM AND MINISTER OF IRRIGATION. ISMAIL AND IDRIS ALSO INVOLVED IN ARRANGMENT THEY HOPE WILL IRON OUT PROBLEM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN MINISTRIES OF IRRIGATION AND AGRICULTURE. ISMAIL PLANS ALSO TO MEET WITH SCIENCE MINISTER EL-GEBEILY BEFORE

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JWG MEETING, TO SOLICIT HIS IDEAS.

9. ISMAIL AGREES WITH RICHMOND THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL AT JWG MEETING TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING FROM BOTH SIDES. FYI: AS PRIVATE AND PERSONAL COMMENT, HE ADDED THAT CONTINUED "UNSETTLED" EGYPTIAN FINANCIAL SITUATION CAUSING SOME PROBLEMS RE STAFFING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM. HE CITED LOCAL SALARY LEVELS WHICH IMPEL RESEARCHERS TO TAKE ON OUTSIDE, BETTER-PAYING JOBS (ISMAIL NOTED HE HIMSELF HAS HAD TO MAINTAIN PRIVATE OFFICE FOR CONSULTING WORK, APPARENTLY IN ENGINEERING FIELD, NECESSARY TO MAKE ENDS MEET) OR TO GO TO NEIGHBORING ARAB COUNTRIES ON LOAN AT GOOD SALARIES. ISMAIL SAID THIS SORT OF PROBLEM WAS BEHIND INACTION OF FORMER EGYPTIAN CHAIRMAN OF INFORMATION SERVICES AREA. ISMAIL PRESUMABLY IS APPEALING FOR US PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING RE SUCH DIFFICULTIES. END FYI.

10. RE ARRANGEMENTS, US DEL SHOULD PLAN MEET AT EMBASSY MONDAY, FEB. 2. JWG MEETING SCHEDULED BEGIN TUESDAY AT 9 A.M., AND WILL PROBABLY CONCLUDE WEDNESDAY, BUT THURSDAY WILL BE LEFT OPEN IN CASE SPILLOVER NECESSARY. EGYPTIAN SIDE WILL HOST AT LEAST ONE LUNCH AND ONE DINNER, AND ALSO HAS VISIT OF CULTURAL INTEREST IN MIND. EMBASSY RECEPTION ALSO BEING PLANNED. AS RICHMOND REQUESTED, WE WILL ARRANGE HIRE THREE CARS ON BEHALF USDEL.

11. ISMAIL WOULD APPRECIATE USDEL LISTING ASAP, AND ANY FURTHER US SUGGESTIONS ABOUT AGENDA.
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